

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) An ink base for producing pigmented inks having a water base, the ink base comprising:

a drying retarder and a pH adjusting agent;

wherein the drying retarder comprises at least diethylene glycol (DR1), 1,6-hexane diol (DR2), and pentaerythritol (DR3);

wherein the pH adjusting agent (PH) comprises at least one amine;

wherein the ink base comprises at least	
diethylene glycol (DR1)	30.0 - 95.5 % by wt.
1,6-hexane diol (DR2)	3.0 - 40.0 % by wt.
pentaerythritol (DR3)	0.01 - 3.0 % by wt. and
amine (PH)	1.5 - 15.0 % by wt.

2. (Original) The ink base according to claim 1, wherein the at least one amine has the formula $N(R_1 R_2 R_3)$, wherein R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 , independent from one another, are hydrogen (H), a dimethyl group (CH_2) or an ethyl group (CH_2CH_2OH).

3. (Currently Amended) The ink base according to claim 1, further comprising at least one additional drying retarder (ADR) selected from the group consisting of ~~glycols~~ glycols,

pyrrolidones, and glycerin.

4. (Original) The ink base according to claim 1, further comprising a salt-free coloring agent.

5. (Original) The ink base according claim 4, wherein the coloring agent is a pigment or a pigment preparation.

6. (Original) The ink base according to claim 1, further comprising at least one of surfactants, preservatives, and emulsifiers.

7. (Original) An ink comprising:
an ink base according to claim 1;
coloring agents; and
water.

8. (Original) The ink according to claim 7, further comprising surfactants, preservatives, and emulsifiers.

9. (Original) The ink according to claim 6, comprising:
20.0 - 95.0 % by wt. water (bidistilled) (SOL),
0.1 - 40.0 % by wt. pigment preparation (COA),
0.1 - 10.0 % by wt. triethanolamine (PH),

0.01 - 2.0 % by wt.	pentaerythritol (DR3),
0.5 - 10.0 % by wt.	1,6-hexane diol (DR2),
0.2 - 30.0 % by wt.	diethylene glycol (DR1),
0 - 20.0 % by wt.	polymer dispersion (BM),
0.01 - 0.5 % by wt.	preservative (PS),
0 - 2.0 % by wt.	surfactant (SF), and
0 - 30.0 % by wt.	additional drying retarders (ADR).

10. (Original) The ink according to claim 7 for inkjet printing or machine-based writing, printing, drawing or marking.